

§ 219.7

36 CFR Ch. II (7–1–99 Edition)

planning shall allow at least 30 calendar days for response. Draft regional guides and forest plans and environmental impact statements shall be available for public comment for a least 3 months. See also §§ 219.8(c) and 219.10(b).

(h) The responsible line officer shall attend, or provide for adequate representation at, public participation activities.

(i) Copies of approved guides and plans shall be available for public review as follows:

(1) The RPA Assessment and the RPA Program shall be available at national headquarters, The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Office, and all Regional offices, Research Stations, Forest Supervisors' offices, and District Rangers' offices;

(2) The regional guides shall be available at national headquarters, the issuing regional office and regional offices of contiguous regions, each Forest Supervisor's office of forests within and contiguous to the issuing region, and each District Ranger's office in the region;

(3) The forest plan shall be available at the regional office for the forest, the Forest Supervisor's office, Forest Supervisors' offices contiguous to the forest, District Rangers' offices within the forest, and at least one additional location, to be determined by the Forest Supervisor, which shall offer convenient access to the public.

These documents may be made available at other locations convenient to the public.

(j) Documents considered in the development of plans shall be available at the office where the plans were developed.

(k) Forest planning activities should be coordinated to the extent practicable with owners of lands that are intermingled with, or dependent for access upon, National Forest System lands. The results of this coordination shall be included in the environmental impact statement for the plan as part of the review required in § 219.7(c). The responsible line officer may individually notify these owners of forest planning activities where it is determined that notice provided for the gen-

eral public is not likely to reach the affected landowners.

(l) Fees for reproducing requested documents shall be charged according to the Secretary of Agriculture's Fee Schedule (7 CFR part 1, subpart A, appendix A).

§ 219.7 Coordination with other public planning efforts.

(a) The responsible line officer shall coordinate regional and forest planning with the equivalent and related planning efforts of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes.

(b) The responsible line officer shall give notice of the preparation of a land and resource management plan, along with a general schedule of anticipated planning actions, to the official or agency so designated by the affected State (including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico). The same notice shall be mailed to all Tribal or Alaska Native leaders whose tribal lands or treaty rights are expected to be impacted and to the heads of units of government for the counties involved. These notices shall be issued simultaneously with the publication of the notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement required by NEPA procedures (40 CFR 1501.7).

(c) The responsible line officer shall review the planning and land use policies of other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and Indian tribes. The results of this review shall be displayed in the environmental impact statement for the plan (40 CFR 1502.16(c), 1506.2). The review shall include—

(1) Consideration of the objectives of other Federal, State and local governments, and Indian tribes, as expressed in their plans and policies;

(2) An assessment of the interrelated impacts of these plans and policies;

(3) A determination of how each Forest Service plan should deal with the impacts identified; and,

(4) Where conflicts with Forest Service planning are identified, consideration of alternatives for their resolution.

(d) In developing land and resource management plans, the responsible line officer shall meet with the designated

State official (or designee) and representatives of other Federal agencies, local governments, and Indian tribal governments at the beginning of the planning process to develop procedures for coordination. As a minimum, such conferences shall also be held after public issues and management concerns have been identified and prior to recommending the preferred alternative. Such conferences may be held in conjunction with other public participation activities, if the opportunity for government officials to participate in the planning process is not thereby reduced.

(e) In developing the forest plan, the responsible line officer shall seek input from other Federal, State and local governments, and universities to help resolve management concerns in the planning process and to identify areas where additional research is needed. This input should be included in the discussion of the research needs of the designated forest planning area.

(f) A program of monitoring and evaluation shall be conducted that includes consideration of the effects of National Forest management on land, resources, and communities adjacent to or near the National Forest being planned and the effects upon National Forest management of activities on nearby lands managed by other Federal or other government agencies or under the jurisdiction of local governments.

[47 FR 43037, Sept. 30, 1982, as amended at 48 FR 29122, June 24, 1983]

§ 219.8 Regional planning procedure.

(a) *Regional guide.* A regional guide shall be developed for each administratively designated Forest Service region. Regional guides shall reflect general coordination of National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research programs. Regional guides shall provide standards and guidelines for addressing major issues and management concerns which need to be considered at the regional level to facilitate forest planning. Public participation and coordination, the current RPA Program and Assessment, and the existing forest and resource plans shall be used as sources of information in meeting this requirement. Data and information requirements es-

tablished nationally will be followed in structuring and maintaining required data.

(b) *Responsibilities*—(1) *Chief, Forest Service.* The Chief shall establish agency-wide policy for regional planning and approve all regional guides.

(2) *Regional forester.* The Regional Forester has overall responsibility for preparing and implementing the regional guide and for preparing the environmental impact statement for proposed standards and guidelines in the regional guide. The Regional Forester appoints and supervises the interdisciplinary team.

(3) *Interdisciplinary team.* The team, under the direction of the Regional Forester, implements the public participation and coordination activities required by § 219.6 and § 219.7. The team shall continue to function even though membership may change and shall monitor and evaluate planning results and recommend amendments. The team shall develop a regional guide in compliance with NEPA procedures.

(c) *Public review.* A draft and final environmental impact statement shall be prepared for the proposed standards and guidelines in the regional guide according to NEPA procedures. To the extent feasible, a single process shall be used to meet planning and NEPA requirements. The draft statement shall identify a preferred alternative. Beginning on the date of publication of the notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the statement and the proposed guide shall be available for public comment for at least 3 months at convenient locations in the vicinity of the lands covered by the guide. During this period, and in accordance with the provisions in § 219.6, the Regional Forester or his designee shall publicize and hold public participation activities as deemed necessary for adequate public input.

(d) *Guide approval.* The Chief shall review the proposed guide and the final environmental impact statement and either approve or disapprove the guide.

(1) *Approval.* The Chief shall prepare a concise public record of decision which documents approval and accompanies the regional guide and the final environmental impact statement. The